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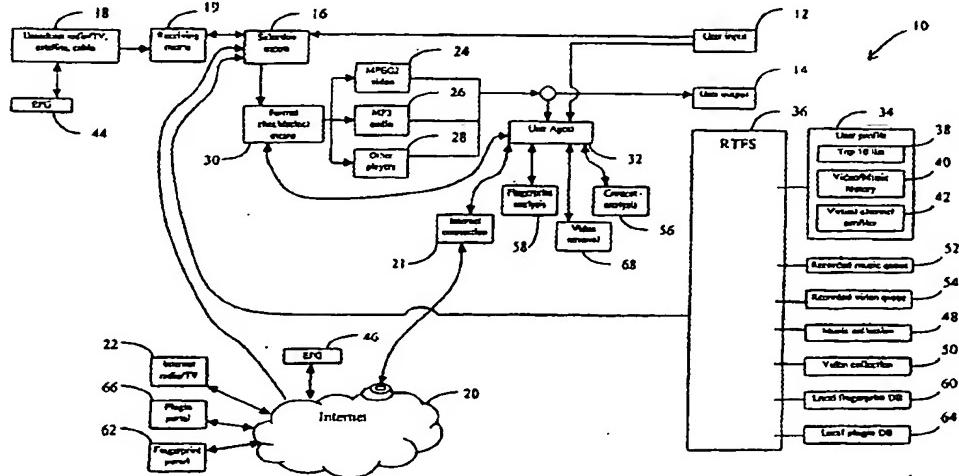
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(54) Title: REAL-TIME RECORDING AGENT FOR STREAMING DATA FROM AN INTERNET



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(57) **Abstract:** A personal recorder/playback system (10) includes a recording agent (32) configured to transparently receive multiple audio/visual streams from analog and/or digital sources. The streams are temporarily stored in queues (52,54) for subsequent analysis. The streams, after analysis, are either discarded, stored permanently in an audio/visual collection (48,50), or used to improve the quality of previously stored streams in the collection. The recording agent (32) provides features such as virtual channels (42) and a "top-ten" list (38) of most popular stored audio/visual streams.